

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

August 15, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Burrell Carter, James Little, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee, Terry Louque, Larry Thomas

ARBC Commissioner Tamiara Wade arrived at 6:06 pm

Vacancy: East Feliciana Parish

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston and Jenna Lynn

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.

2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.

Maintenance Contract Sealed Bid Opening: Bankston opened 2 sealed bids. Tractor Services bid \$23,750. Rotolo Consultants, Inc. bid \$26,543. Carter suggested waiting to approve the lowest bidder, Tractor Services, until after Bankston has time to verify the insurance and other documents enclosed in the bid. A motion was made by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve the lowest bidder, Tractor Services, contingent upon approval of said documents being verified by Bankston. Yeas: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, James Little, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn, Nays: Carter, Not Present: Wade Absent: Lee, Louque, Thomas

4. Hunting Lease(s)/grazing Bid Opening: Bankston opened 6 sealed bids. Keith Arnold/Drew Hall bid \$10/acre on M3-80, Leonard Blanchard bid \$5/acre on M3-115, Hoan Tran bid \$16.25/acre on Tract 41. C&K Farms/Tommy Davidson bid \$15/acre on Tract 41, Peter Hoang bid \$11/acre on Tract 41, Tommy Davidson bid \$6/acre on Tract 41. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Bailey to approve the highest bidders contingent upon approval of said documents being verified by Bankston. Right of First Refusal letters will be mailed to the previous property owners. Before awarding the hunting lease(s) to the highest bidders, previous owners have the right to match the highest bids.

5. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Thibeau to approve the July 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented.

6. Financial Statement Report:

- Hoover presented to the Board the July 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial balances. The Board will approve the July 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements at the September 19, 2017 meeting, along with the August financial statements.

7. Report by Executive Director: Rietschier discussed the status of the "white paper." Rietschier and the Board discussed the need to complete Phase 1 of the CRDC Project. The lack of federal funding is all that is holding the project up from Phase 1 being completed. Rietschier informed the Board that Public Radio WRKF 89.3 will interview him tomorrow. Carter read a draft letter he prepared from the ARBC to the USACE Col. Michael Clancy concerning the Benefit to Cost Ratio on the CRDC Project. He asked the Board to consider sending this letter to Col. Clancy. The draft letter from the ARBC, states clearly that the ultimate completion of the Project lies solely with the United States Corps of Engineers. The Commission and the taxpayers in the District deserve a clear decision from the federal government. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Carter, second by Hoover to finalize the letter and send it to Col. Clancy. A copy will be sent to Governor Edwards, Senator Cassidy, Senator Kennedy, Congressman Graves, Dr. Wilson, DOTD and ARBC Commissioners.

- DOTD Report by William Delmar, P.E.: DOTD has no major updates to report. For Real Estate - paperwork is being reviewed by the Corps and for Utility Relocations – engineers are working on designs for utility owners.
- Bob Jacobsen provided Mr. Rietschier with a draft on highwater marks, "August 2016 Flood Preliminary Report." Rietschier is trying to get funding.

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- The Board unanimously agreed on motion by Carter, seconded by Hoover to enter into Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss a Personnel Matter.
 - The Board unanimously agreed to return to Regular Session on motion by Thibeau, seconded by Hoover.
8. ARBC Legal Counsel: Nothing pending. Counsel will review leases and bids to confirm the appropriate winners.
 9. Old Business: None
 10. New Business: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, seconded by Bailey to approve the renewal of the website contract with GeoQuery with a starting date of August 15, 2017, as presented.
 11. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President
Date: September 19, 2017

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary